

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
26 September 1966

State Department review completed

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Czechoslovakian party delegation to Hanoi, headed by Premier Lenart, will discuss economic assistance to the DRV, according to a Czech news broadcast.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

South Korean forces reported killing 140 Communist troops since 22 September in a series of small clashes near Qui Nhon (Para. 1). Operation SIOUX CITY was started yesterday by two US battalions 26 miles north-east of Saigon (Para. 2). US soldiers found a Communist prisoner camp yesterday near Tuy Hoa (Para. 3). Viet Cong propaganda leaflets printed in English have been found calling for the defection of US and other foreign troops to the Viet Cong (Para. 4-5).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

There have been no new significant reports concerning initial items on the agenda of the constituent assembly, which convenes tomorrow (Para. 1). South Vietnam's largest labor union has postponed its national congress, probably because of internal difficulties within the union hierarchy (Para. 2).

III. North Vietnamese Military Developments:

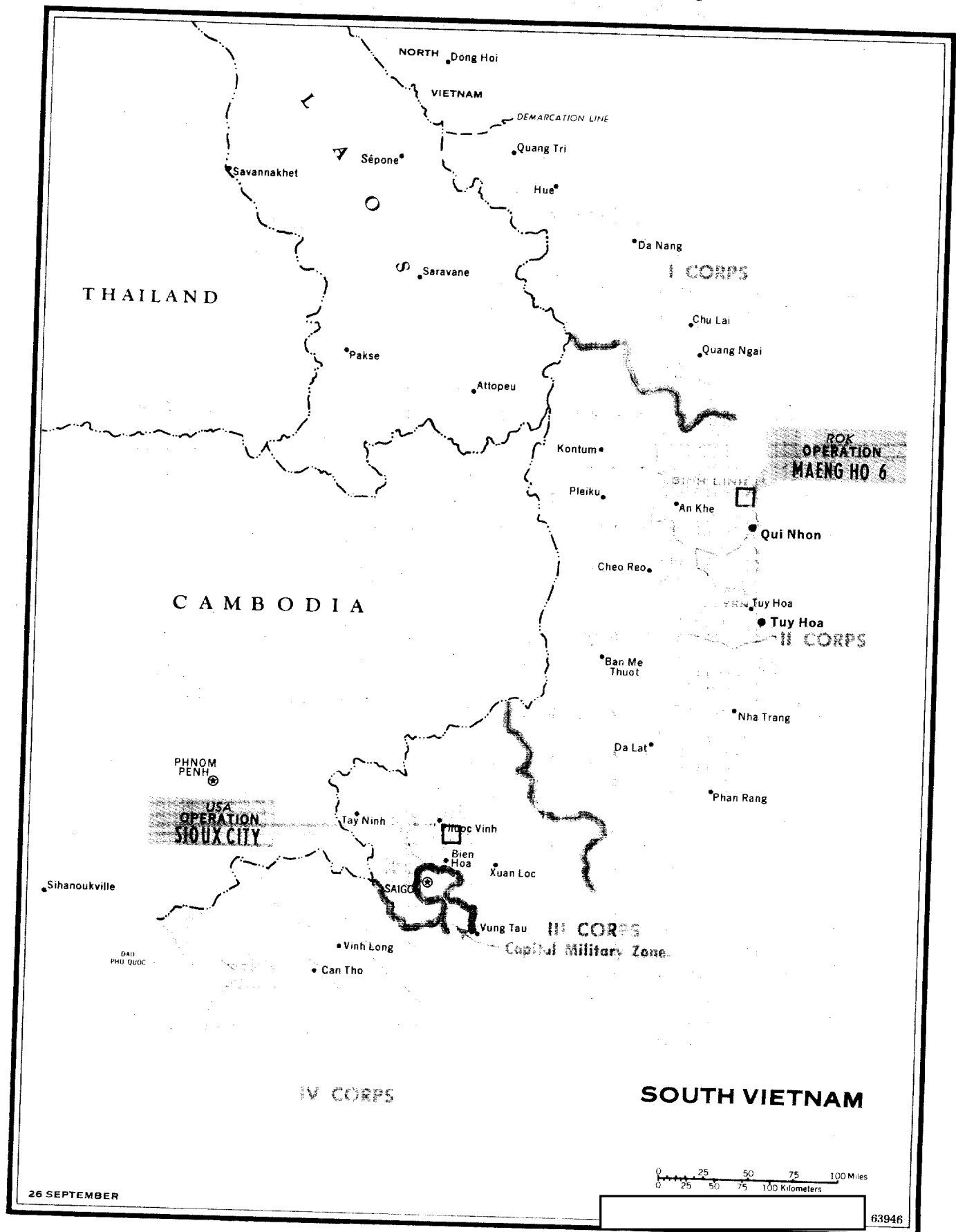
There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments:

The Czech party delegation now in North Vietnam will discuss economic assistance to the DRV, according to a Czech news broadcast (Para. 1). Former North Vietnamese foreign minister Xuan Thuy has reappeared in an important post after a year and a half absence (Para. 2-3)



I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Units of the South Korean Tiger Division have reported a series of small clashes with Viet Cong forces in the mountains six miles north of Qui Nhon in the central coastal province of Binh Dinh. A total of 140 Viet Cong have been reported killed and 108 captured since the Koreans launched Operation MAENG HO 6 (formerly called DEUL KUK HWA) on 22 September. Six South Korean soldiers have been killed and 26 wounded to date.

2. Two battalions of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade began Operation SIOUX CITY yesterday in an area of Binh Duong Province about 26 miles north-east of Saigon. This search-and-destroy operation will attempt to locate forces and installations of the 384-man Phu Loi Viet Cong Battalion.

US Forces Overrun POW Camp

3. A unit of the US 101st Airborne Division found a Communist prisoner-of-war camp yesterday, in an area about 16 miles southwest of Tuy Hoa in coastal Phu Yen Province. Four South Vietnamese prisoners were found as well as quantities of American and foreign ammunition. The camp appeared to be about two months old. One of the prisoners stated that the Viet Cong had evacuated about 46 prisoners some 40 minutes before the American force arrived. Several hours later, eight additional South Vietnamese prisoners were found. There was no indication that Americans were kept prisoner at the camp.

Viet Cong Propaganda Leaflets in English

4. A Viet Cong "Chieu Hoi" type of leaflet printed in English has been found in the southern delta province of Kien Giang. The leaflet called on US and other foreign officers and men to "come over to the Viet Cong side," where they would be "welcomed and given favored treatment." The leaflet further promised that the men defecting to the

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Viet Cong would be given appropriate attention if they desired to join the fighting in the ranks of the Viet Cong.

5. This is the first English language propaganda leaflet to fall into friendly hands that invites US troops to defect and fight for the Viet Cong. Another leaflet, found on 30 June in Hau Nghia Province, stated that US and other foreign troops would be given lenient treatment and proper care if they surrendered to the Viet Cong.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. There have been no new significant reports on the initial order of business of the constituent assembly, which is due to convene tomorrow. Chief of State Thieu and Premier Ky are scheduled to address the delegates at the opening session. [redacted]

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[redacted] an unidentified Buddhist group may attempt to demonstrate outside the assembly hall and to present the delegates with a series of demands. If the demonstration is not allowed, the group will try to capitalize on "government oppression," and claim that the assembly election was fraudulent. According to the press, stiff government security measures will be put into effect in the vicinity of the hall to guard any Viet Cong sabotage effort.

Vietnamese Labor Convention Postponed

2. The Vietnamese Confederation of Labor (CVT), South Vietnam's largest labor union, has postponed its national congress which had been scheduled from 13 to 15 October. CVT president Tran Quoc Buu and secretary general Tran Huu Quyen both stressed that the postponement was not due to any outside pressure, but was judged necessary by CVT officials because the timing was generally "inopportune." The US Embassy has commented, however, that Buu and Quyen are probably not entirely candid about the reasons for the postponement. There are some indications that Buu has been having some internal political difficulties with local Saigon labor leaders. A CVT national council meeting will be held on 1 October to set a new date for the national congress.

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III. NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. According to a Czechoslovakian news broadcast, the Czech Party delegation in Hanoi headed by Premier Lenart will discuss economic assistance to the DRV. The high-level DRV economic delegation which is currently touring bloc countries in Eastern Europe has not yet been to Prague, and if an economic aid agreement between the two countries is to be negotiated in Hanoi, Prague has probably been omitted from the Vietnamese itinerary.

Former Foreign Minister Reappears

2. North Vietnamese party central committee member, Xuan Thuy, who was removed from his governmental post of foreign minister in April 1965 and who has been consistently absent from public functions since that time, showed up twice this month with high-ranking party dignitaries to greet the Japanese and Czech Communist Party delegations. In both cases he has been described as head of the important party central committee foreign relations department.

3. At the time of his resignation from the Foreign Ministry, it was officially explained that he was ill. The subsequent appointment of politburo member Nguyen Duy Trinh to the post raised the additional speculation that the increasingly complex responsibilities of the ministry required a man of higher stature. Other rumors suggested that Xuan Thuy's ill health was largely political. His re-appearance in the foreign affairs role after an absence of a year and a half suggests that he may well have been too ill last year to serve effectively in the increasingly demanding post of foreign minister, but that he has now recovered sufficiently to resume some of his duties.

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